

NEWS RELEASE

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Springfield Man Pleads Guilty to Conspiracy to Distribute More Than 5 Kilograms of Cocaine

Springfield, IL – A Springfield, Illinois man, Troy Powers, age 33, of 2266 East Laurel, has pled guilty to conspiring with others to distribute more than five kilograms of cocaine from January 2005 to September 2005, as announced by Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois. Powers pled guilty on June 29, 2006, to the two offenses charged by a federal grand jury on October 5, 2005: conspiracy to distribute five or more kilograms of cocaine (one count) and distribution of cocaine (one count.)

Powers admitted he purchased and supplied others with cocaine in central Illinois and Springfield from January 2005 to September 7, 2005. During the conspiracy, Powers admitted distribution of more than five kilograms of cocaine. Powers admitted he delivered 251.2 grams of cocaine to a confidential informant in Springfield on September 7, 2005.

Sentencing is scheduled for October 19, 2006. Powers was previously convicted in November 1994 of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances including cocaine and cocaine base (crack) in U.S. District Court in Springfield and was sentenced to 128 months in the Bureau of Prisons. Because Powers has a prior felony drug conviction, the conspiracy charge carries a statutory mandatory minimum of 20 years to life in prison. With a prior felony drug conviction, the distribution charge carries a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Springfield Police Department, the Illinois State Police and the Central Illinois Enforcement Group, and the Sangamon County Sheriff's Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory M. Gilmore.

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